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THE BURMA NEWS

Mrs. J. B. JOHNSON

DECEMBER, 1938

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THE
BURMA NEWS

H. W. SMITH, *Editor.*
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Vol. LI Rangoon, Burma, December, 1938 No. 12

A BIRTHDAY PARTY

A group of sixteen of her friends in Taunggyi gathered at Mrs. Johnson's home on Monday to make much of her 83rd birthday. It was a breakfast party and the food was prepared in various homes and served in her living room where two ladies of the party had gone ahead of time and arranged tables and seats.

On the previous evening, her real birthday, the Karen Christians had chosen her home for their weekly prayer service, and several had paid tribute to her influence upon their lives and upon the Karen Communities she had made her special care on the Loikaw field, during her residence in Loikaw. She has also kept in rather close touch with some of the leaders there, since she retired here, as they come to her for consultation from time to time.

As she sat in her chair, with the joyful expression of those who are appreciated on her face, we felt that she was a precious link between the pictured faces about her — those of her parents and husband and son — and our generation. Our minds went back to the days of their earnest efforts to establish God's Kingdom in Burma, and tarried in the present long enough to estimate something of what their beginnings had achieved, and beyond the present, at least in my own mind, was a faint glimpse

of what is yet to be revealed when the service pattern has been completed. It was a cheery simple effort to share with her the joy that belongs to one who has spent so many years in loving service for the Master. We all came away, I think, grateful for our share in the Inheritance of the Saints.

Cora M. Henderson.

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Extension Activity from Pyinmana

As a development from the long tour Mrs. Case and I took by motor car last April among the tribes along the Burma-China border, the Shan States Government has sanctioned a scheme to use the Pyinmana Agricultural School in a program for the agricultural improvement of the Kachins. A number of Kachin graduates from our school will be used to supervise selected farmers in the villages who will plant a part of their taungyah hillside fields under their instruction. Making of contour ridges around the hillsides to conserve the fertile top soil and planting the dry land rice crops in rows so as to facilitate weeding will be one of the first steps for improvement. In the hillside fields which are being abandoned because of loss of fertility after one or two crops of rice have been planted, contour ridging will also be done and then sessamum put down in rows interplanted with Pigeon pea. On the contour ridges maize and beans and tapioca cuttings for providing food in addition to the usual hill rice will be set out. We aim to work out a system by which the cutting of new forests each year will be stopped and a permanent agriculture established on the land.

The last of October I made another tour up to the China border and held conferences with the Kachin leaders, government officials and our missionary Mr. Sword at Kutkai to select centres where this work shall be started. Our Christian Kachin villages are ready to co-operate. The Commissioner has approved of the plan for beginning the work and also sanction has been received for the appointment for five years of an American agricultural missionary to reside in the Shan States to direct this work. A cable has been sent to our Foreign Mission Society to find such a missionary family for whom the funds will be available. Therefore if our friends know of a suitable agricultural college trained man who would be interested in coming out as a missionary for this kind of demonstration work please inform Dr. J. C. Robbins, our Foreign Secretary of the Baptist Mission Society in New York. The new man will be expected to come to Pyinmana for a few years to get experience while one of our missionary staff members will serve in the Shan States. The new man should be appointed as soon as possible and should be of the kind who can work under pioneer conditions among primitive people. He will need to be an all round zealous missionary with an inner urge to help the Christians in the village churches as well as to do a good job at establishing new practices in agriculture.

Our All Burma Convention and the Missionary Conference held in Rangoon last month showed interest in rural reconstruction by having special time assigned for the exchange of experience on the subject and passing a resolution for our village pastors to study the subject so as to lead the village churches in these lines of practical Christian service.

During November the students in our Agricultural School have been divided into four groups each under a teacher and several of these make a tour to some village each week and gain practical experience in doing evangelistic work and rural reconstruction. A report is handed in after the tour telling what each student

did in each of the five activities of (1) Agricultural Demonstration Work (2) Health Service (3) Leading Games (4) Giving Rural Reconstruction Talks (5) Doing Religious Work. In addition all take part in the songs and dramas of our evening concerts.

I myself regularly take the graduating class and find intimate fellowship with them a blessing and can see the development of the boys by the work. We want these boys to lay hold of some village need and with a zealous spirit be Christian workers wherever they go. They expect to be something more than demonstrators of a new agriculture when they go out from us: better demonstrators of a new and better way of life. Our cold season tours we feel help much in this direction. Young men whom you want to see develop along these lines are the ones whom we hope you from the different stations will keep sending to us.

Brayton C. Case.

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Annual Pastors' Conference Henzada

This week has sure been one of real inspiration — for we have just had our annual conference for all the pastors and workers of the district. One of the encouraging points this year in regard to attendance was that a number of laymen came also. There were about as many laymen here each day as there were pastors. Over a month ago when the conference committee met to lay plans for this year's affair, this was one of the things we wished to stress this year: the attendance of laymen. We are glad of the response. Next year we hope for more laymen for we will have the Conference earlier so as not to conflict with the paddy reaping time. As one looks about it is apparent that not only the pulpit needs new life and inspiration but also the pew is too poor in the knowledge of the Bible to grow in the Christian life.

The theme of the Conference this year was " Bearing fruits with Christ." And did we hear all about the fruits that grew in Burma? We were assured that the durian was one of the finest fruits, even better than the pomolo. But I am sure keeping my distance from what experience I have had with them on the train. We were glad to have our new neighbors, the Keysers up with us for Thanksgiving; and then to have him preach the opening sermon on this theme, using John 15:16 as his text. The evening meetings which were held in our home were conducted by one of the visiting pastors with either a leading Karen or Burman of Henzada to speak, using different texts on this theme. Those who spoke were: U Shwe E, U Maung Gale, U Si, U Thaw Da, U Tha Din, Saw Eddy, Thra Po Myat, Saw Ba Maung, and Mr. Phelps. One of the central points made in regard to how Christians might bear fruit was made by Mr. Phelps and seemed to be a keynote throughout the week: that of the need for person to person contact. Preaching is very necessary, but greater still the value of the personal contact. The morning and afternoon worship were taken by different pastors.

The courses offered this year were led by different ones here in Henzada and U Tha Din from the Seminary whom we had invited for the week;

Studies in Letters of Timothy and Titus — Daw Mary.
Church Administration — U Maung Gale.
First Aid and Simple Medicines — Dr. Tin Poh.
Teachings of Jesus — C. Hobbs.
Following Christ — U Tha Din.

U Tha Din also preached on the second Sunday of the Conference and it truly was a real climax for the nine days which we have had together.

Cecil Hobbs.

Cushing High School

It is not often that we report our activities in the columns of the NEWS, although we could take up much space telling of our doings; some of these doings would be of so common a nature and so well-known to all of you who are in school work that it would be boring to report them. Once in a while special things happen which have a greater news-value.

The 8th, 9th, and 10th of December we will have our annual School Exhibit — at least this is the third year in succession to hold such an exhibit and it will likely become an annual affair. All kinds of handwork done in connection with the usual classroom work will be on display, as well as a very large array of toys. These toys are becoming well-known in the country and we have even had inquiries, as well as orders, from India and other places.

The 4th of December was a special occasion in our Memorial Chapel service, when six young people were baptised. The youngest is 13 years old, the oldest 21, and the others distributed fairly evenly between them. One was a girl, the daughter of our Saya Po Maing, another was the son of Saya Po Min. Three of the six were from non-Christian homes (though in one or two cases one of the parents had been nominally Christian many years ago but ceased even nominal profession long ago).

Speaking of our Memorial Chapel, it is a source of great satisfaction to us to note the appreciative comments of visitors who see it; invariably they remark on its simple dignity that inspires a worshipful attitude on the part of all who enter it. It certainly has proved itself most valuable for our three Sunday services, as well as the three devotional teachers meetings, the C. E. meeting, etc., during the week. It has also proved most appropriate for weddings! By the way, U Ba Chit, A.R.I.B.A., the architect of the Chapel, is now back in Burma after further training in England and is available for any architectural services you will require. He is a man of fine Christian character and high personal and professional ideals, as well as sure competence.

When you read these lines I shall be in Madras at the meetings of the International Missionary Conference. Pray for the Burma Delegation that all may come back with a new vision and enthusiasm for the work of Christ's Kingdom in Burma.

Geo. D. Josif.

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Letter

Adams, Nebs.

"Out of sight" is not "out of mind," but you may need some *proof* of it. I do enjoy every bit of news from each of you, but you deserve more from me. So I've resolved to send some message at least annually through the NEWS.

Just a year ago I came to Nebraska, where very unexpectedly, a call came to pastor the church at Adams. This opening was a real opportunity, with a fine group of young people, and I have had a very happy year of service here. We have ten lady teachers in our midst (members of the church) and fine workers. Most of them teach in country schools, but are doing efficient work and making a real contribution as Christians. At present our young people are "mating," so as one of my friends says to me, "You are raising a pair (pear) orchard." Yes, and what finer than Christian homes.

Our S. S. is small — some 60 enrolled but we have just had a *new* class organized — our *young married couples* which we hope will prove a real asset. It meets a long felt need. Last April twelve of our young people took a joyous stand for Christ. Eleven were baptized in April. Some others are interested. We made some gain in our offerings to Missions and

closed the year without a deficit. Our church membership is about 100 men.

Those of you who know Nebraska, will rejoice that the wheat crop is better this year, than for five years. "Rust" caused some trouble, but we rejoice in some improvement. I am keenly interested in rural and evangelistic work.

It was such a joy to have Laura Johnson here with me for a day and to see Dr. and Mrs. Chaney in Omaha, last May. I miss you all, and pray God's richest blessing be yours.

Nellie E. Lucas.

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Third Anniversary of the Judson Indian Church

At Judson College

The following extracts from reports show the encouraging work which is going on in this Church under the leadership of Pastor Devadass, with the help of fellow-workers. The report shows receipts of Rs. 170 for the year, used for the expenses of the Church and for contributions to other causes.

This Church was established in 1935. Since then Pastor Devadass has been devoting his whole time to faithful evangelistic service among the Tamils and Telugus within the University Estate and vicinity.

The total number of members at present is eighty-eight out of which sixty-four are men and twenty-four women. During the year there were sixteen baptisms. Eleven new members joined the Church from other churches.

During the year we had eighty-three children on the roll. There are three classes, one for the Tamil girls taught by Mrs. Varam, another for the Telugu boys and girls taught by Mr. N. Bushanam, and the third for the Tamil boys taught by the present superintendent.

Christmas

1

Christmas—
'Tis all confusion
Said my heart.
Christmas.
I walked apart.
Cornucopias brimming o'er.
Gifts..Gifts..
Christmas.
"Christ" I prayed;
"My Hope. My Life"
"Is fixed upon"
"Thy Resurrection"
"O, lead me from crowds. Noise."
"To meditate"
"In Holy contemplation"

... 2

He touched me.
My Creator and my God.
"Child." "Child."
Still there are two.
"Spirit..Sod.."
"Christmas"
"Go back"
"Glitter. Show."
"Children sing"
"Old men dream again"
"Their dreams"
"Go back"
"Thou'll find *Me* there"
"Thy Creator and"
"Thy God."

Florence Strait

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Toungoo-Burma

The past month has been just the old grind. We have had some pleasant interruptions which we welcome and would be glad to have repeated. One distinguished visitor was a former Acting Secretary of the Woman's Board, Miss Maine. It made Toungoo look like old times to have her here. Wish we might have kept her. Miss Petheram also added to the enjoyment of the visit by coming along with her. Then we were honoured by a visit from Mrs. More of the Methodist Women's Board and Mrs. Jones with her and

enjoyed every bit of their stay. Miss Ryder of the School for Missionaries' Children called one day just to do her good deed for the day in letting us get acquainted with her. Then Dr. Gordon Seagrave, when he saw our gate right across from the petrol pump, ran in to say, "hello" and "good-bye." He had his new Dodge on which he has worked a good dodge. By having the rear seat arranged so that he can remove it and then open up the luggage carrier at the back he is able to convert it into an ambulance which will accommodate two people on a wide stretcher. Very clever, but just like him. Then we had a delightful visit from Miss Crain for two days.

We received a letter from our combined Bible woman and teacher at Kolinsait telling of her work there. I know you will be interested in a part of it. She said:

"Among the Christians in Kelinsait Daw Aye Mya, though in the matter of food, drink, existence and ease is greatly troubled, yet she ignores it and turns to the worship of God and keeps a cheerful heart. Daw Aye Mya is a widow. Her faith in God and love and hope are growing and becoming established. Because of her becoming a Christian the Buddhists do not love her as before. They no longer talk to her or visit her. Where formerly they gave her work now they give her no work, but hate her and abuse her. Even though her former friends thus treat her she is not sad, discouraged or weakened in her purpose. Seeing the invisible God only she says: 'He will not cast me off. His grace is sufficient for me,' as she trusts and prays. She even loves her enemies. We see her continuing humble, patient, giving her heart into God's hand, praising His grace and showing forth a good example. It is with her that I am living. When you pray remember to pray that Kolinsait may become a part of Christ's kingdom."

About two weeks ago we received word that Ma Thein Nyun was in a serious condition with fever. The village is on the low bank of the river and the floods overflowed their banks and came up into the village. The wells were shallow and surface water seeped in. Pools formed and mosquitoes were hatched in large numbers. Many were taken sick and cholera started and several died in the village. Her fever went up to 107° and she was unconscious, but we brought her to town and she has been steadily improving and we rejoice that she is now about ready to return to her work. It is these faithful workers in these hard places who deserve our most earnest prayers.

Saya U Aung Po, our Chin preacher, was bitten one night by some thing on the road. He could not tell whether it was a snake or a centipede. He went to the hospital for treatment and returned home, but in a few days had to return to the hospital as an in-patient as his foot swelled badly and the doctor was quite concerned over his condition. We are glad that he has at least recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital. He has had a long record of faithful work even when he was suffering from ill health and the work can ill afford to lose his services especially when we retire, since he is the only ordained preacher we have.

Lewis B. Rogers.

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Mission Treasurers' Manual

Supplement to Page 45

Rail Travel in the United States. First class rail and Pullman is approved for use in the eastern part of the United States, but in the west and wherever available missionaries will be required to travel in tourist class corresponding berthing accommodations unless emergency requires first class travel and it is approved by the Society.

Jesus—A Brief Life

Dr. Jame A. Francis.

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood.

While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. Another betrayed Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying, and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the center of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life.

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You do not test the resources of God till you try the impossible.

F. B. Meyer.

Kachins—Their New Chapel

We have just completed another school year in our Kachin Bible Training School. Ten students received their certificates after the completion of the prescribed two year course. In order to be able to take care of all our new Christians and to take care of all the work we now have we need to graduate at least ten new workers every year for some time to come.

Br. H. Young has also a large number of Kachins in his new territory and I was glad to be able to send him one of our young preachers. But if the work in there should open up as we hope it will he will soon need others. We have also had to supply the 2nd Bn. of the Burma Rifles with a chaplain. Way up in Sumprabum also Mr. Dudrow is asking us to send him some pastor of experience and ability. Thus it seems we are always in need of preachers and pastors.

Our new church in Kutkai is coming along in fine shape. We are now building the tower. The walls are finished and the roof is on. Money has been coming in. We will not run into debt. When or if the money is gone then we will also stop with the work. At present it seems as though we will be able to complete the church. We hope to have it all ready for dedication some time before the coming rains.

It has been very encouraging to see the interest the Kachins have displayed in supporting and giving for this new church building. Before its completion I fear the building will cost more than Rs. 10,000. This is a large sum of money and to realize that almost all of this has been donated by the poor Kachins is almost unbelievable.

In the rear of the church we plan to have at least three classrooms for our Bible Training School students.

G. A. Sword

Language Examinations

The following candidates have passed their Burmese Examination.

Elementary Examination

Miss Ruth Christopherson (except sentence translation and dictation).

Intermediate Examination

Mrs. C. Hobbs.

Advanced Examination

Miss Inez Crain.

The following have passed their Burmese Examination with Credit.

Elementary — *Miss Harriet Gibbens.*

Intermediate — *Rev. C. Hobbs.*

Field Secretary.

Mrs. J. M. England passed her examination in Kachin during the month of September.

Mrs. H. W. Smith,
Gustaf A. Sword.

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Notice

On January 6, at 4-15 in the afternoon the dedication of the new building for the English Seminary will take place. Dr. Jesse R. Wilson, Associate Secretary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, who expects to arrive in Burma on January 2nd, will preach the dedicatory sermon. We also hope that Dr. Decker, Foreign Secretary for China, of the A. B. F. M. S., will also be with us on that occasion. We, therefore, give a most cordial invitation to all Christians to be present with us on that day.

The services will be held at the new building on Seminary Hill, Insein.

W. E. Wiatt,
Principal.

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Annual Reports

The Field Secretary has been asked to prepare the Burma Report for inclusion in the Society's Annual report next year. All reports have been asked for by December, 15th. Only six have as yet come in. Please do not delay beyond December, 15th.

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Arrivals

On the S. S. *Amarapoora*, November 15th, Miss E. Whitwer.

On the S. S. *Sirdana*, November 4th, Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Latta and Miss Dorothy Wiley.

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Birth

Born December 3, 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Dickason at the Dufferin Hospital, a son, David Gordon, 9 lbs. 11 oz.

Car for Sale

By order of the Reference Committee my 1934 Plymouth Sedan is to be offered for sale at Rs. 1,600 F. O. B. Moulmein in January. Present mileage 18,000. The car is in good running order, has two new tyres, and was re-painted last year. A good car for rough roads and hills. Hasn't boiled or crashed yet! Terms may be arranged with the Mission Treasurer.

Roger Cummings.

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Religious Education Conference in Rangoon

Final arrangements are being made for the two-day conference on Religious Education Problems, to be held during the visit of Dr. Robert M. Hopkins, the general secretary of the World S. S. Association. Most of those who replied to the announcement, preferred the dates early in the week. So, the conference will meet January *3rd and 4th.*

Some schools have been willing to delay reopening of school a few days, to allow their teachers to attend. Won't you send some of your teachers and workers? Any, who are able to understand English and who are interested, are welcome.

Meetings begin Tuesday morning, January 3rd at 8-30 and continue through the afternoon session Wednesday, January 4th, closing at 4 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Methodist English Girls' High School on Signal Pagoda Road.

We feel it will be a real privilege to be able to meet in session with Dr. Hopkins. He has had wide experience in church and Sunday school problems, and we look forward to those days. We hope many of you and your workers will join with us.

Helen Gates,
General Secretary,
Burma S. S. Union

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Let Christ impart Himself, in the place you have retained for yourself.

R. Wilbur.

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It is when we are full of self that Christ is crowded out.

Jowett.

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Self was the deadly element in the life of the Pharisee — he would not decrease — he would not become poor in Spirit.

Jowett.

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It is the heart that gives Christ liberty to exercise dominion in it, that shall obtain the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Living Waters.

BURMA MISSION DIRECTORY

Field Secretary — Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Smith

Office: 121D Mission Rd., Rangoon Tel. Address: " Baptisma "
Mission Treasurer — Miss O. A. Hastings. Tel. Address- " Ambaptreas "

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Rev & Mrs. E. B. Roach, D.D.
Rev. & Mrs. H. E. Safford
Miss Anna H. Smith
Rev. & Mrs. L. W. Spring
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Snyder
Mrs. E. O. Stevens
Mrs. F. P. Sutherland
Mrs. H. H. Tilbe
Miss Louise Tschirch
Mrs. W. F. Thomas
Miss Thora M. Thompson
Mrs. E. Tribolet

BURMA MISSIONARIES RETIRED IN BURMA

Miss J. G. Craft, Maymyo
Mrs. I. B. Elliott, Maymyo
Mrs. Geo. J. Geis, Maymyo
Rev. & Mrs. H. C. Gibbens, M.D., Loilem
Mrs. A. H. Henderson, Taunggyi
Mrs. C. H. Heptonstall, Taunggyi
Miss L. B. Hughes, Taunggyi
Mrs. J. B. Johnson, Taunggyi
Miss A. E. Long (Assam) Maymyo
Miss S. T. Ragon, Taunggyi
Mrs. A. E. Seagrave, Rangoon
Rev. & Mrs. W. St. John, Ph. D. Maymyo